

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3754

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, IZ

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF US BUSINESSMAN TO IRAQ

1. THIS EMBASSY RECEIVING INCREASING NUMBER QUERIES FROM Q.S. BUSINESSMAN RE TRAVEL TO IRAQ. NEWS OF BROWN AND ROOT CONTRACT AND GENERALLY EXPANDING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN IRAQ HAS LEAD MANY BUSINESSMEN TO CONSIDER INVESTIGATING SALES POSSIBILITIES THERE. IN ADDITION, SOME BUSINESSMEN HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM IRAQI OFFICIALS TO COME TO BAGHDAD OR BASRA TO DISCUSS VARIOUS PROJECTS.

2. MOST RECENT SPECIFIC QUERY COMES FROM JOHN J. MCMULLEN ASSOCIATES REP, SAVERIA CINA WHO IN KUWAIT IN CONNECTION WITH CONSULTING PROJECT WITH ARAB MARITIME PETROLEUM TRANSPORT COMPANY (AMPTC). IRAQI MEMBERS OF AMPTC PLANNING BOARD, GOMA LAIBI, HAS INVITED CINA TO BASRA TO DISCUSS DESIGN OF SHIPYARD, CINA BELIEVES MCMULLEN ON VERGE WINNING MAJOR CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH AMPTC AND WOULD LIKE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF POSSIBILITY

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WINNING ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONTRACT IN IRAQ. HE

UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHETHER HE SHOULD GO TO BASRA UNDER
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN ADVISING AMERICANS TRAVELLING
TO IRAQ ON BUSINESS, TO CHECK WITH LOCAL IRAQ EMBASSY
AND IF POSSIBLE, TO CARRY WITH THEM LETTER IN ARABIC
EXPLAINING PURPOSE OF VISIT. WE HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED
IF POSSIBLE, THEY SHOULD BE MET BY IRAQI CONICT.
MANY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN CLEARLY EXCITED BY POSSIBI-
LITIES IN IRAQ BUT THEY ALSO CONCERNED REGARDING THEIR
PERSONAL SAFETY. REALIZE SITUATION CHANGES DAY TO
DAY BUT WOULD APPRECIATE LATEST GUIDANCE USINT BAGHDAD
CAN PROVIDE.
STOLTZFUS

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